

## **CALFED Conservation Strategy**

### **Staff Team Meeting Notes**

**March 30, 1999  
9:00 AM to 11:30 AM**

These meeting notes summarize major topics of discussion. The attendance list and a list of upcoming meetings are included at the end of these notes.

#### **1. Call to Order, Introductions, and Order of Business**

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 AM.

#### **2. Report on 3/22/99 Policy Team Meeting**

**Service-Area Impacts.** Mary Scoonover is preparing a written description of CALFED's proposals for dealing with service-area impacts. USFWS and CDFG are reviewing the analysis of indirect and service-area impacts in the EIS/EIR. If it is not adequate, they will contact CALFED immediately.

**Addition of Water Storage Sites to the Multi-Species Conservation Strategy.** JSA will provide species lists for the reservoir sites outside of the current geographic scope of the Conservation Strategy by 4/2/99, for inclusion in the administrative draft EIS/EIR. The supporting appendices will be prepared by 4/30/99.

**Assurances.** A subcommittee of the Policy Team will meet on 3/31/99 to develop the assurances. It was agreed that there needs to be a clear description of the linkage between assurances and implementation of certain actions, especially establishing the EWA and carrying out the ERP. To include in the assurances discussion, Dana Jacobsen will write a description about what would cause reinitiation of the consultation.

#### **3. Conflicting Comments**

**Chapter 1, Introduction.** One reviewer commented that the list of components of the CALFED Program (ERP, Water Quality Program, etc.) should be deleted from Chapter 1 because it is discussed in other CALFED documents and in other chapters of the Conservation Strategy. Other reviewers thought the list is appropriate because it orients the reader to the CALFED Program upfront and helps the Conservation Strategy serve as a stand-alone document. The attendees decided to retain the list.

**Chapter 2, Species and Habitat Types/Natural Communities Addressed in the Conservation Strategy.**

**Fish Groups.** Marti Kie asked the attendees if the term "NCCP fish group" is an acceptable term to use under the NCCPA. The fish groups are presently described as anadromous,

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estuarine, and riverine. Chris Beale stated that as long as the terminology is based on conservation biology and ecological principles, as in this case, then it is appropriate. In a 3/31/99 email from Scott Cantrell, Scott wrote that since the term anadromous describes a life history strategy rather than a habitat or natural community, we should call these estuarine and riverine aquatic habitats rather than fish groups. Estuarine and riverine aquatic habitats are within the 18 NCCP habitats. If Sandy Guldman does not receive any objections, the Conservation Strategy will be revised to reflect Scott's suggestion.

**Definition of Species.** Some text from Chapter 7, including the definition of covered species, will be presented in Chapter 2. The 400+ species is the preliminary species list. From the preliminary species list, the 205 evaluated species were identified. The evaluated species are those species that the CALFED Program may affect or are listed

Covered species are those species, at a programmatic level, which would be adequately conserved (state context) and would have no jeopardy and critical habitat would not be adversely affected (federal context). There are two subsets of covered species, those species for which take could be authorized and those for which take could not be authorized. Text should be added to emphasize that the term "covered" is for purposes of using the processes in the Conservation Strategy for tiering purposes and does not imply that take would be authorized. (In an HCP, covered species are those species in which take is authorized.)

Species for the reservoir sites will be added by JSA to the preliminary species list and evaluated species list. CDFG (Jeff Single) and USFWS (Mike Fris) will prepare the covered species list using the evaluated species list.

Marti Kie mentioned that to meet conservation goals (R, r, and m), the Conservation Strategy recommends measures beyond those in the ERP. Marti stated that she needs input from USFWS and CDFG explaining that programmatic conservation measures were synthesized from specific conservation measures that will be used for sub-area plans and will be tiered on.

**Chapter 5, Effects of CALFED Actions and Conservation Measures.** Cumulative effects will not be in Chapter 5 but will be discussed in Chapter 6, Relationship of the Conservation Strategy to Non-CALFED Projects, Programs, and Plans. Mike Fris will prepare the cumulative effects text.

**Chapter 7, ESA, CESA, and NCCPA Compliance for Implementation of CALFED Program Actions.** Mike Fris is expecting to receive comments from Dana Jacobsen regarding Chapter 7. Danae Aitchison is taking the lead on responding to comments and refining the chapter.

**Chapter 12, Funding.** Dana Jacobsen will provide examples of HCP funding mechanisms to Marti Kie to assist her in drafting Chapter 12, Funding.

#### 4. Status Report/Policy Issues-Open Forum

**Executive Summary.** Sandy Guldman is summarizing each chapter of the Conservation Strategy. The chapter will be introduced with its summary. In addition, the chapter summaries plus more information, as necessary, will comprise the Executive Summary. The Executive Summary will be a stand-alone document, consisting of about 5-6 pages.

**Effects on Species.** Pete Rawlings explained that in Chapter 5, the analysis of effects on species is not explicit; it must be inferred from the prescription, which was assumed to state the effect. For example, if a species has a goal of recovery, then the outcome is that the species would be recovered. Pete wanted to know if JSA should prepare another set of tables stating effects on each species by rewording the prescriptions. The attendees decided that additional tables in Chapter 5 are not necessary. They asked Pete to prepare a flowchart or guide for Chapter 5 so that a reader can easily navigate through the tables, understand potential impacts, discern what conservation measures would apply, and know the outcome (after measures are implemented) for a particular species.

**Population Monitoring.** Scott Cantrell spoke with Bellory Fong and reported that CMARP has not estimated what funding would be needed for Conservation Strategy monitoring. Mike Fris reported that he has discussed estimates regarding population monitoring for R and r species with Pete Stine. The CMARP assumes that all the R and r species will need population monitoring. Jeff Single and Kevin Shaffer will identify which m species need population monitoring. Mike stated that most species would be covered by monitoring for overall habitat indicators, but that most listed plants would need population monitoring. Compliance monitoring would be funded by project proponents.

**Stage 1 Bundles.** The process for obtaining take for Stage 1 actions will be described in the Conservation Strategy. Since some Stage 1 actions are proposed to be implemented soon, the tiered documents for those actions should be ready so that the tiered Biological Opinion/subarea NCCP can be issued concurrently or immediately after issuance of the Biological Opinion/NCCP for the Conservation Strategy. The assurances package would tie assurances to implementation of ecosystem restoration and link ecosystem restoration with actions. CMARP will need to balance impacts and benefits to species. The process of bundling will involve evaluation of progress toward fulfilling the goals of the Conservation Strategy. Jeff will prepare text for Chapter 7 regarding bundling and the principles of balance.

#### 5. Action Items

- Dana Jacobsen will provide information on HCP funding to Marti Kie.
- Jeff Single will prepare CDFG's covered species list.
- Mike Fris will prepare USFWS's covered species list.
- Mike Fris will prepare the cumulative effects section.
- Jeff Single and Kevin Shaffer will identify which m species need population monitoring

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- Jeff Single will provide text to Danae Aitchison regarding bundling and the principles of balance.

### 6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.

#### Attendance at 3/30/99 Staff Team Meeting

Dawn Andrews, NOAA  
Chris Beale, CDFG  
Marina Brand, CDFG  
Scott Cantrell, CDFG  
Lori Cheung, Toyon  
Michael Fris, USFWS

Sandy Guldman, Toyon  
Marti Kie, CALFED  
Ray McDowell, CALFED  
Pete Rawlings, JSA  
Kevin Shaffer, CDFG  
Jeff Single, CDFG

#### Upcoming Meetings

The Staff Team will meet:

Tuesday	April 20, 1999	9 AM to Noon	Resources Building, Room 804 Call-in Number (916) 657-4113???
Tuesday	May 11, 1999	9 AM to Noon	?? ??
Tuesday	May 25, 1999	9 AM to Noon	??

The Policy Team will meet:

Tuesday	April 13, 1999	1 - 3 PM	Resources Building, Room 1142???
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